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HIT DELAYS IN PRODUCTION OF NEW SOVIET TV SETS

NEW TELEVISION RECEIVERS STILL NOT AVAILABLE -- Moscow, Literaturnaya Gazeta,
27 Feb 54

For a long time, there have been numerous press reports of new improved models of television receivers: the Pioneer, Avangard, Sever, Svet, Temp, and Volna. Some time ago, Izvestiya announced the production of the first group of television receivers by the Voronezh Plant. On 14 August 1952, this author published an article in Literaturnaya Gazeta entitled "Television in 1953," based on official forecasts of expanded production. However, the electrical industry did not keep its promise to organize the mass production of new receivers in 1953.

Officials of the electrical industry continue to use the scarcity of cathode-ray (picture) tubes as an excuse for production delays, saying that this shortage limits the output of old models as well as the new models. However, these officials should have thought about this problem sooner and taken measures to eliminate this shortage.

Let us review the history of the Sever receiver, which was described as a new-model set in 1952. The set was displayed at the Polytechnic Museum. While industry was preparing to produce the model, the set became obsolete, so the Sever-3 was designed. But there is no reason to believe that this model will not be obsolete by the time it is put on sale.

The Polytechnic Museum is exhibiting 13 models of television receivers which were put on display as new models at one time or another, but many of them were never put on sale.

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The Pioneer receiver, which first appeared in August 1953, suffered a similar fate. The use of a new cathode-ray tube radically changed the circuits of the set permitting great savings in costly materials and reducing the weight, size, and cost of the set. The set was approved by a council of experts and the plant which made the first model of the Pioneer promised to produce 20,000 of these sets in 1954. Now the plant intends to produce less than 5,000 Pioneer sets instead of 20,000.

A radio plant in Leningrad received orders from the ministry to produce 20,000 Avangard receivers in 1954. A model of the set, which had been approved by a council of experts of the All-Union Chamber of Commerce was sent to the plant. The plant had to send the set to its design bureau for further development. It seems that the Chamber of Commerce had not studied the technical documentation or the performance of the new model. Even without instruments, anybody who observed the set in action would have noticed that the audio and video channels overlap and that the sound signal was interfering with the picture.

The Voronezh Elektrosignal Plant spent 6 months tooling up for production of the obsolete KVN-49 set. Now, plant workers are wondering why the main administration had them organize the production of this old receiver.

One of the Leningrad plants has been ordered to organize production of the Sever-3. This will take at least 6 months; in the meantime the plant will continue to produce KVN-49 sets. Another plant which produces KVN-49 sets has been ordered to organize the mass production of Neptun sets, but this will require considerable time.

Kazanskiy, one of the administrative officials of the electrical industry, was recently asked when the new television sets would be available. He replied that production of new sets was being held up by the vacuum tube industry, which is not yet mass-producing cathode-ray tubes with electrostatic deflection. He added that new sets will be available in 1954: one plant will turn out an experimental group of Sever sets early in the year; another plant will start production in the second quarter; and production of the Avangard set will start in the second half of 1954.

However, these are only experimental groups of sets. On the same day that Kazanskiy made the statements above, he sent a letter to the council of experts asking them to extend the time limit on specifications of the KVN-49-4 receiver to the second half of 1954 in view of the fact that production of the new-model television sets would not start until the third quarter 1954. At the same time, Kazanskiy asked permission to continue production of KVN-49 sets at plants (including the Voronezh Plant) which had been assigned the production of new-model sets.

Scientific research institutes are not providing adequate support in solving television problems. Zakharov, deputy director of one of the scientific research institutes, states that his associates have no time to devote to scientific research in television because 90 percent of them are working on current problems which have no direct bearing on research work. He states that the institute's building (formerly a secondary school) is not suitable for television research. Furthermore, this institute, the only one in the country working on special problems of television, has no production facilities to speak of.

The electrical industry has been taking too much time in organizing the output of new-model television receivers and it is high time that the industry set a definite date when the new models will be available. -- P. Makrushenko

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PRODUCE KVN-49-4 TELEVISION SET -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 12 Nov 53

The Voronezh Elektrosignal Plant has organized the production of KVN-49-4 television receivers and has already turned out 100 sets. The plant will soon start series production of the sets, which will be shipped to Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

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